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# Citizens' Bulletin

Volume 10 Number 10 June 1983 \$5/yr.

The Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection

## Reminders of the Revolution

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# Citizens' Bulletin

June 1983

Volume 10 Number 10

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Cover Photo: Fortifications at Fort Griswold State Park: Jenny Mead

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# Ancient Indian is reinterred

On Sunday, April 10, 1983, the Department of Environmental Protection, the Connecticut Indian Affairs Council, and the Children's Museum of Hartford cooperated in an historic event. An ancient Indian remains formerly on exhibit at the Children's Museum was reinterred in a traditional sacred ceremony. This was the first time in Connecticut, and only the second time in the East, that a museum has taken the major step of releasing a skeletal display for actual reinterment.

The Indian remains were those of a boy of about 14 who died between 500 and 1,000 years ago. Following his death, probably from disease, his body rested in the sandy soil of Glastonbury until 1965. That year construction workers unearthed the skeleton

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and brought it to the attention of the landowners. Murray Hill Developers, which had purchased the land from the Hollister family, agreed to permit the Morgan Chapter of the Connecticut Archaeological Society to conduct scientific excavation of the work site prior to construction. Several skeletons were uncovered. Discussions are going on about reburying the others.

In late 1981, members of the Split Feather Indian Council, an urban inter-tribal organization based in Hartford, initiated discussions with the Children's Museum of Hartford. The groups then brought the matter to the attention of the Connecticut Indian Affairs Council. The CIAC, a State agency, is composed of representatives of the five

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Chief Big Eagle (Aurelius Piper), left, of Connecticut's Golden Hill Paugussett tribe, and Slow Turtle (John Peters), Supreme Medicine Man of the Wampanoag Indian Nation, joined Dr. Robert A. Matthai, Executive Director of the Hartford Children's Museum at a press conference following the reinterment of an ancient skeleton formerly exhibited by the museum.

# Two hundred years later ten State parks and forests recall American Revolution

By John Waters

November 30th of last year was the 200th anniversary of England's signing, in Paris, a preliminary agreement recognizing the independence of what had been its American colonies. It confirmed the fact that England had lost the War of the American Revolution (1775-83).

Even though Connecticut played an important part in the victory, it is surprising to discover that as many as 10 of our State Parks and Forests are named after Connecticut patriots or are in some other way associated with the Revolution.

The State Parks named after patriots are Putnam Memorial in Redding and Wooster Mountain in Danbury. The forest is Nathan Hale State Forest in Coventry and Andover.

The State Parks otherwise associated with the war are Wolf Den in Pomfret, Fort Griswold in Groton, Talcott Mountain in Bloomfield, Old Furnace in Killingly, Seth Low Pierrepont in Ridgefield, and Trimountain in Durham and Wallingford. The forest is

Mohawk State Forest in Goshen and Cornwall.

## Two parks honor Putnam

Wolf Den and Putnam Memorial State Parks honor the war's most flamboyant general: Israel Putnam (1718-90). In 1742, before he became a major-general, Putnam made a name for himself in Northeastern Connecticut by killing the last of a pack of wolves which for years had been killing sheep and poultry. According to legend, Putnam and five neighbors sighted wolf tracks in the snow and followed them for several days until they found the animal's den in a cave.

Impulsive Putnam crawled into the cave, gun in hand. At first it looked as if the wolf were going to get Putnam instead of vice versa. Putnam had to retreat a bit but did not give up. He went for the wolf again, shot it, and dragged it out by its ears.



*General Putnam squelched a mutiny but won his greatest fame with a dangerous horseback ride.*

## Wolf Den Park

In 1925, the Daughters of the American Revolution sold Connecticut the site of the den and much of the land that is now Wolf Den State Park. The park features the cave that started Putnam on the road to fame. Originally, its entrance was marked with a bronze tablet, which vandals stole. It is now marked with a wooden one. The cave is a 10-minute walk from the parking lot.

After you see the den, you might like to take a 15 or 20

minute walk to see the Indian Chair, which is a wide ledge naturally shaped like a chair or settee. From it, there is an interesting panorama of the valley of Wolf Den Brook.

Wolf Den State Park is now the southernmost component of Mashamoquet Brook State Park, which is at the intersection of U.S. 44 and Route 169. (See Block M-3 on the State Tourist Map.)

The easiest way to get to Wolf Den State Park is via U.S. 44. Turn south onto Wolf Den

Road at the intersection of Routes 44 and 101. Follow Wolf Den Road for about a mile and a half to the parking lot on the left. Don't be discouraged when the road turns to dirt after the first half-mile.

## Putnam Memorial Park

The State's major tribute to Major General Israel Putnam is Putnam Memorial State Park in Redding. (See Block C-8 on State Tourist Map.) The park is on the site of his headquarters camp in the winter of 1778-1779.

General Washington had sent three brigades there in November 1778 to keep the British from cutting off New England from the rest of the Continental army by getting control of the Hudson River. The British also wanted to keep Connecticut from supplying food, munitions, and troops to the army. Their plan was to fight their way up from Long Island Sound and cross western Connecticut to the Hudson.

To protect the Connecticut shore towns, American camps were set up every few miles between Redding and the shore. Although the winter of 1778-1779 was not exceptionally bitter, the American troops -- who had not been paid for a year -- lacked proper food, blankets, and warm clothing. The suffering that some of them had experienced at Valley Forge, the year before, is well known; but some historians believe the suffering was even worse at Putnam's camp because of the shortages. In any event, it was bad enough to cause the troops to mutiny and to desert and return to Hartford to complain to the General Assembly. Putnam squelched the rebellion and, combining strong discipline with eloquence, restored order.

## Give a man a horse . . .

However, it was Putnam's famous horseback ride down the

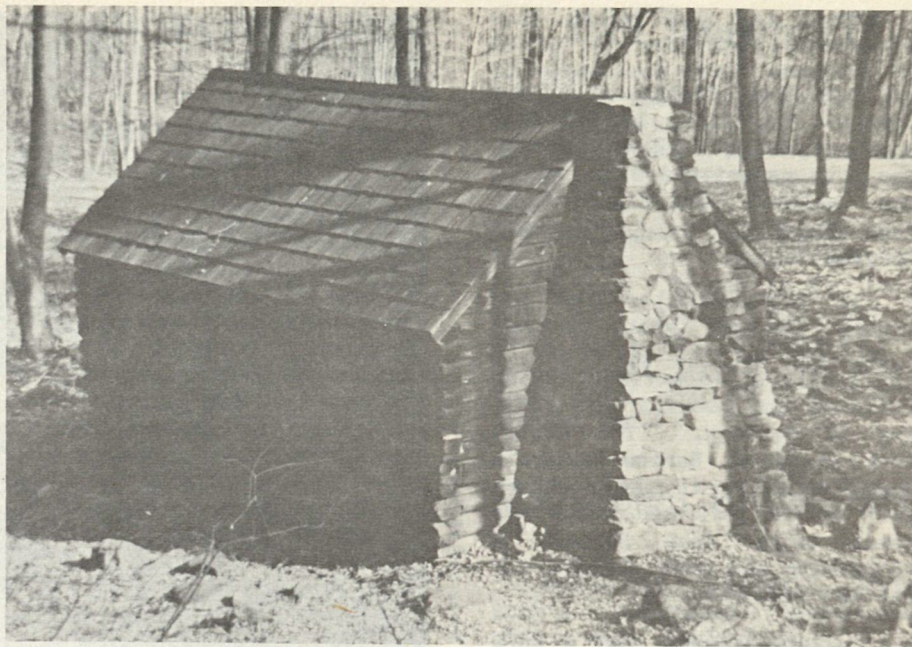
face of a cliff near Horse Neck (now called Greenwich) that won him fame. The Redcoats were under the command of a General Tryon, who was also Royal Governor of New York. One day in 1779, while on a reconnaissance expedition near Greenwich, Putnam and 150 of his men encountered a much larger body of Tryon's troops, who set out after them in hot pursuit. Knowing he was outnumbered, Putnam ordered his troops to ride off in one direction through a swamp, while he would take a short cut to Stamford to round up reinforcements.

The short cut was down 100 steps cut into the face of a steep cliff. Putnam figured the Redcoats wouldn't dare follow. He was right: they shot down at him instead. One blast knocked off his hat, but otherwise he got away undamaged. (General Tryon, admiring his horsemanship, sent him a new hat as a gift. Sporting chaps, those British!) Putnam returned with a reinforcement of militiamen, easily drove off the enemy, and took a few dozen prisoners for good measure.

At the entrance to Putnam Memorial Park is a thrilling, 65-ton, bronze equestrian sculpture, 50 percent larger than life, executed by Redding's Anna Hyatt Huntington when she was 91. It shows hatless Putnam riding down the cliff, shaking his fist at the Redcoats.

## What to see

The park's main attraction is a museum containing exhibits and historical material related to the encampment, with guides on duty to assist visitors. From Memorial Day to Columbus Day, it is open from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily. There is no admission charge. The park itself is open daily from 8 a.m. to sunset. Other things to see are the reconstruction of one of the 14 by 16 foot log huts that housed 12 soldiers or fewer officers. There is also an officers' barracks; a



*A reconstruction of a Revolutionary encampment log hut is one of the visitor attractions at Putnam Memorial Park.*



*Putnam Memorial Park's Colonial Museum offers exhibits of historical material.*

stone-lined pit that probably was a powder magazine; and a cemetery. At the entrance, miniature blockhouses flank the road; and a log building to the north is the guardhouse. (The cannons at the entrance are of Civil War vintage.)

Groups wishing to make arrangements for a guided tour

of the park should make reservations by calling (203) 938-2285, or by writing to Putnam Park Museum, RFD 1, West Redding, CT 06896. The park is southeast of Danbury at the junction of Routes 82 and 58. It is very near Collis P. Huntington State Park, which was left to the State by sculptress Anna Hyatt Huntington and her husband.

## Pierrepont Park

Seth Low Pierrepont State Park in Ridgefield and Wooster Mountain State Park in Danbury are both associated with American General David Wooster. (See Block C-8 on the State Tourist Map.)

In 1777, Wooster led his troops through what is now Pierrepont Park on their way to the battle of Ridgefield, which followed the sacking and burning of Danbury. The action took place on Barlow Mountain Road, which is in the southern part of the park and which was named after John Barlow, a blacksmith who made weapons for the American side.

General Wooster led a surprise attack on the British near the New York border and took about 40 Tory (pro-British) prisoners. Later the same day, he attacked again; but this time a British musket ball had his name on it and killed him.

Seth Low Pierrepont, for whom the park is named, was not

Office of Parks and Recreation



General Israel Putnam first made a name for himself at this cave in Wolf Den State Park.

a Revolutionary War figure. He was a U.S. State Department career diplomat who bought the 313 acres in the 1930s and left

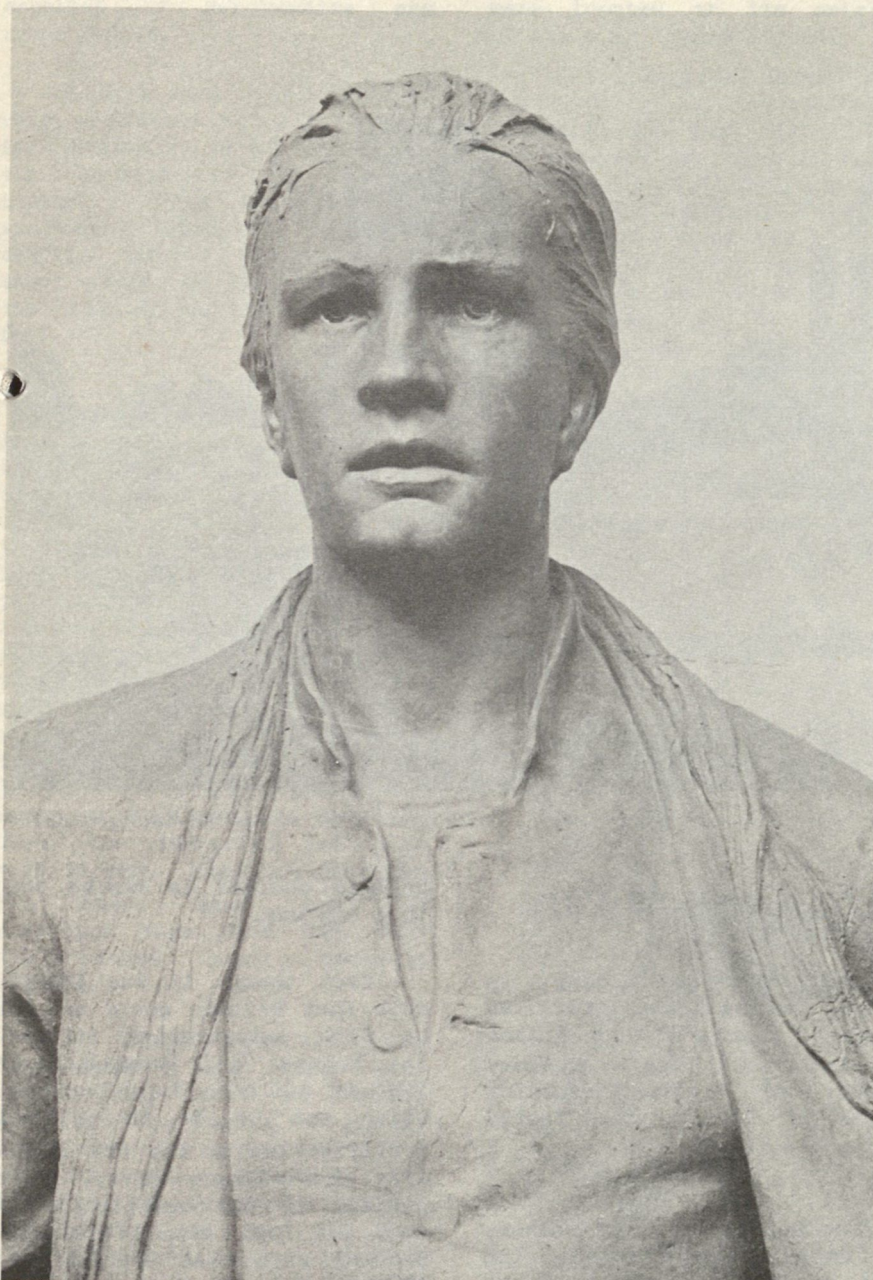
it to the State when he died in 1956.

In the park, which surrounds Lake Naraneka, volun-



Jenny Mead

Visitors to Fort Griswold State Park can explore old fortifications.



*Nathan Hale's homestead can be visited in Coventry in the Nathan Hale State Forest. Clay model of Hale (Yale 1773) here is by Bela Lyon Pratt; bronze stands on the Old Campus of Yale College.*

teers from Ridgefield have established an extensive trail system, including a cross-country ski trail. There is a pond for fishing and a wildlife impoundment built by the Youth Conservation Corps. Hikers, horseback riders, and naturalists enjoy the variety of the terrain and the many kinds of plants and trees. The high spots provide excellent panoramic views. There is parking for six cars.

To get there, take Route 116 north from Ridgefield for

about two miles. Turn right at North Street and go about four-tenths of a mile to the first intersection and turn left onto Barlow Road. The park is on the northeast side of the intersection.

## Wooster Mountain Park

Quite appropriately for a park named after a Revolutionary general, Wooster Moun-

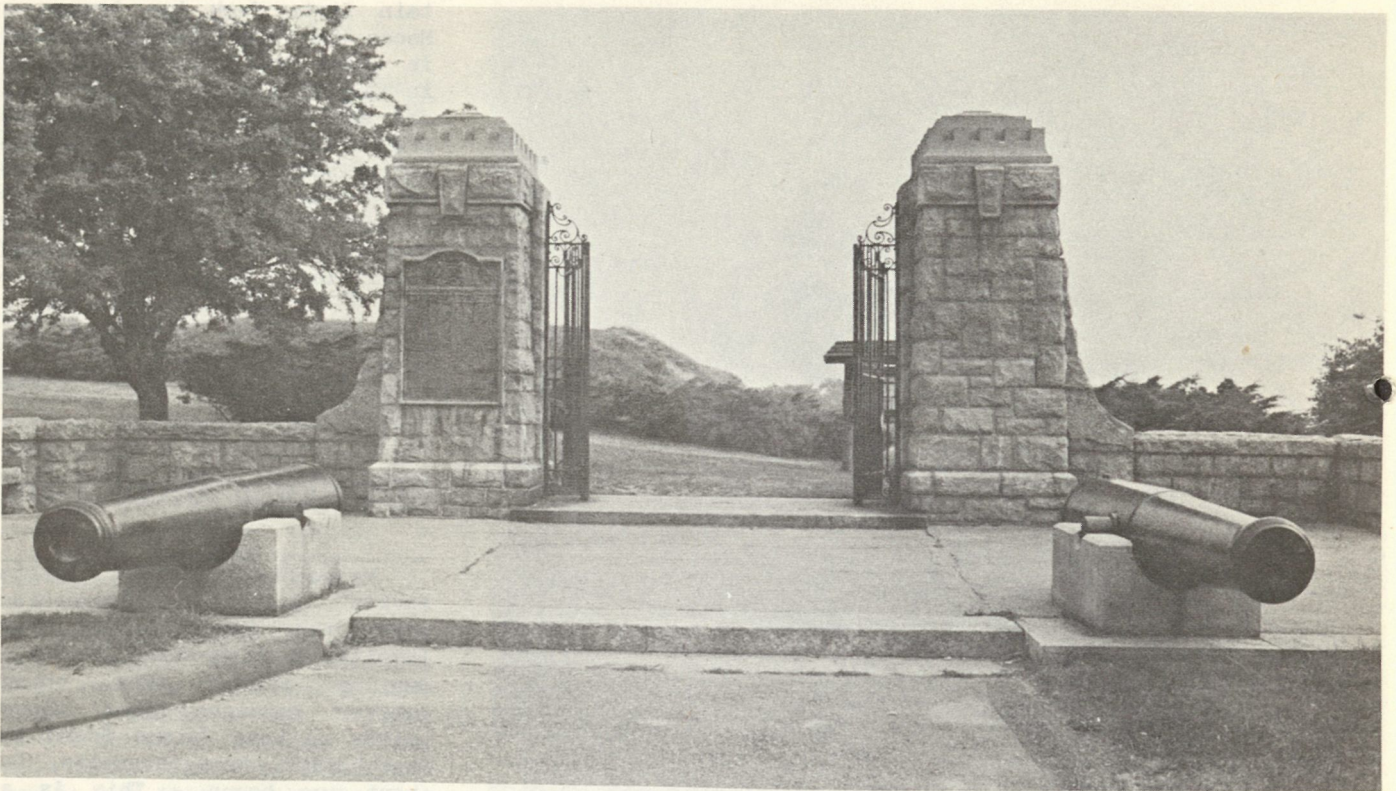
tain State Park has become a Mecca for sportsmen interested in skeet and trap shooting or in target shooting with pistols and small-bore rifles. Shooting activities are carefully supervised by the Wooster Mountain Gun Club, Inc., of Danbury, which has developed the range and other shooting facilities. To get to it, take U.S. 7 for about a mile and a half south of Interstate 84. U.S. 7 runs through the park. (See Block B-8 on the State Tourist Map.)

## Macedonia Brook Park

Macedonia Brook State Park's principal connection with the Revolutionary War involves a high-speed communications system that could deliver messages from shore points on Long Island Sound to Stockbridge, Massachusetts, in about two hours. This is a distance of close to 90 miles. The "equipment" employed consisted of 100 Schaghticoke Indians who volunteered to help the Americans by relaying messages from peak to peak along the Housatonic River, which originates near the Massachusetts Turnpike and flows through Connecticut to the Sound.

The Schaghticoke tribe was a composite of Mohegans, Waramaug, Pootatucks, and Pequots who had united along the Housatonic River in northwestern Connecticut when they were displaced from areas where white men settled. They were friendly with the people in Kent and, instructed by Moravian missionaries in 1742, about 150 of them accepted baptism as Christians.

If you like your parks wild and rugged the 2,300 acres of Macedonia Brook won't disappoint you. Connoisseurs of vistas have declared that the views from the summits of the park's Cobble Mountain and Pine Hill are the most beautiful in Connecticut. The Appalachian Trail takes you to them.



*Cannons flank Memorial Gate entrance to Fort Griswold State Park. Old Fort site shows in background.*

From the automobile road near the entrance, there is a dramatic view of the gorge of the brook, which has upper and lower falls. There are blue, green, yellow, red, and orange blazed trails for hikers, and maps are available from the park ranger. The park is one of the best nature-study areas in the State for students of animal life, plant life, or geology, and its trout-stocked streams make it a fisherman's paradise.

If the more vigorous forms of recreation are not for you, the park also provides shelters, picnic tables, and 84 campsites in its woods along the calmer parts of Macedonia Brook. There are also springs of fresh water, one of them named Rheumatic Springs.

The park appears in Block B-4 on the State Tourist Map and actually touches the New York border. Take U.S. 7 to Kent. Then take Route 341 northwest four miles to the entrance, which is at the southern end of the park.

## Fort Griswold Park

This shoreline park in Groton memorializes not an American victory but a brutal defeat to which the treasonous conduct of traitor Benedict Arnold of Norwich contributed substantially.

The British had two reasons for attacking the New London area. One was to divert Washington's Continental Army, thereby relieving pressure on General Cornwallis around New York City. The other was to destroy the fleet of New London privateers, who were licensed by Connecticut to attack and loot the valuable cargoes of British supply vessels and merchant ships.

The arms and the crews of the privateers were paid for by their owners, who grew rich and accumulated huge stores of merchandise in their New London warehouses. It was when one of the privateers captured a cargo of supplies bound for British officers in New York that

England decided to strike back in a big way.

Even though it was inevitable that Britain would not put up with privateering forever, the Yankees had dragged their feet in building Fort Trumbull, which was to be the largest fortification on the New London side of the Thames River. As a result, it was unfinished and open to land attack when the British struck on September 6, 1781. Only Fort Griswold on the Groton side of the river was completely finished and protected with trenches, earthworks, pickets, mounds, and tunnels. It also had a well-stocked powder magazine.

## Traitor led enemy

Benedict Arnold (1741-1801), who had deserted to the British the year before, was in charge of the two-pronged attack on New London and Groton. With 800 of the 1,800 men under his command, he burned 143 buildings in New London, destroying huge

supplies of merchandise and naval stores.

He also sent 1,000 troops, under a Colonel Eyre, to attack Fort Griswold, which was under the command of a Colonel Ledyard. When Eyre demanded surrender, Ledyard refused, despite Eyre's threat that there would be no quarter if the British had to storm the fort.

Ledyard's 155 men fought bravely and inflicted many British casualties -- Colonel Eyre was among the badly wounded. However, Ledyard's troops were no match for the larger force of British professionals. After only 40 minutes, the fort fell and Ledyard called a halt to the fighting. According to the American version of what happened, when Ledyard gave up his sword in surrender, the British killed him with it. A massacre followed. Up till then, the Americans had lost only 10 men. When the massacre was over, more than 80 Americans were dead and half the others were severely wounded.

That night, when the British embarked with their prisoners, they tried to destroy the fort by laying a powder train from the magazine to the barracks and igniting it. Luckily, an American patriot put the fire out, and the fort is still standing for visitors to see. Many of the wounded captives died aboard the British ship.

## Much to see

The oddly shaped fort (it has 16 sides) and its V-shaped fortification called a ravelin are to the left of the Memorial Gate to the park on Monument Street in Groton. Facing west across the Thames is the River Battery, which was constructed for a later war period, with its powder magazine and furnace for making shot. North of it is the reconstructed Ebenezer Avery House, where the wounded

were treated at its original location on Thames Street.

Across Monument Street from the fort is the Groton Battle Monument, 134 feet high. From its windows, on clear days, you will see Block Island, Fisher's Island, and Montauk Point on Long Island. Near the monument is a museum where mementos of the battle and other historical events are on display. Both are open every day from Memorial Day through Labor Day from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. From Labor Day through Columbus Day,

they are open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on weekends only. The Ebenezer Avery House is open from 2 to 4 p.m. on Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays from June through August.

Take Route 1 one mile south of I-95 (Exit 87) in Groton. (See Block L-8 on the State Tourist Map.) The park is bounded by Monument and Fort Streets on the north, Smith Street on the east, Baker Avenue on the south, and Thames Street on the west.



Courtesy of Connecticut State Library Archives; The Hartford Courant © 1935

Benedict Arnold, who headed the two-pronged attack of the British on New London and Groton, is shown in a drawing from James Britton's "Notable Men in Connecticut History Portrait Series."

## Talcott Mountain Park

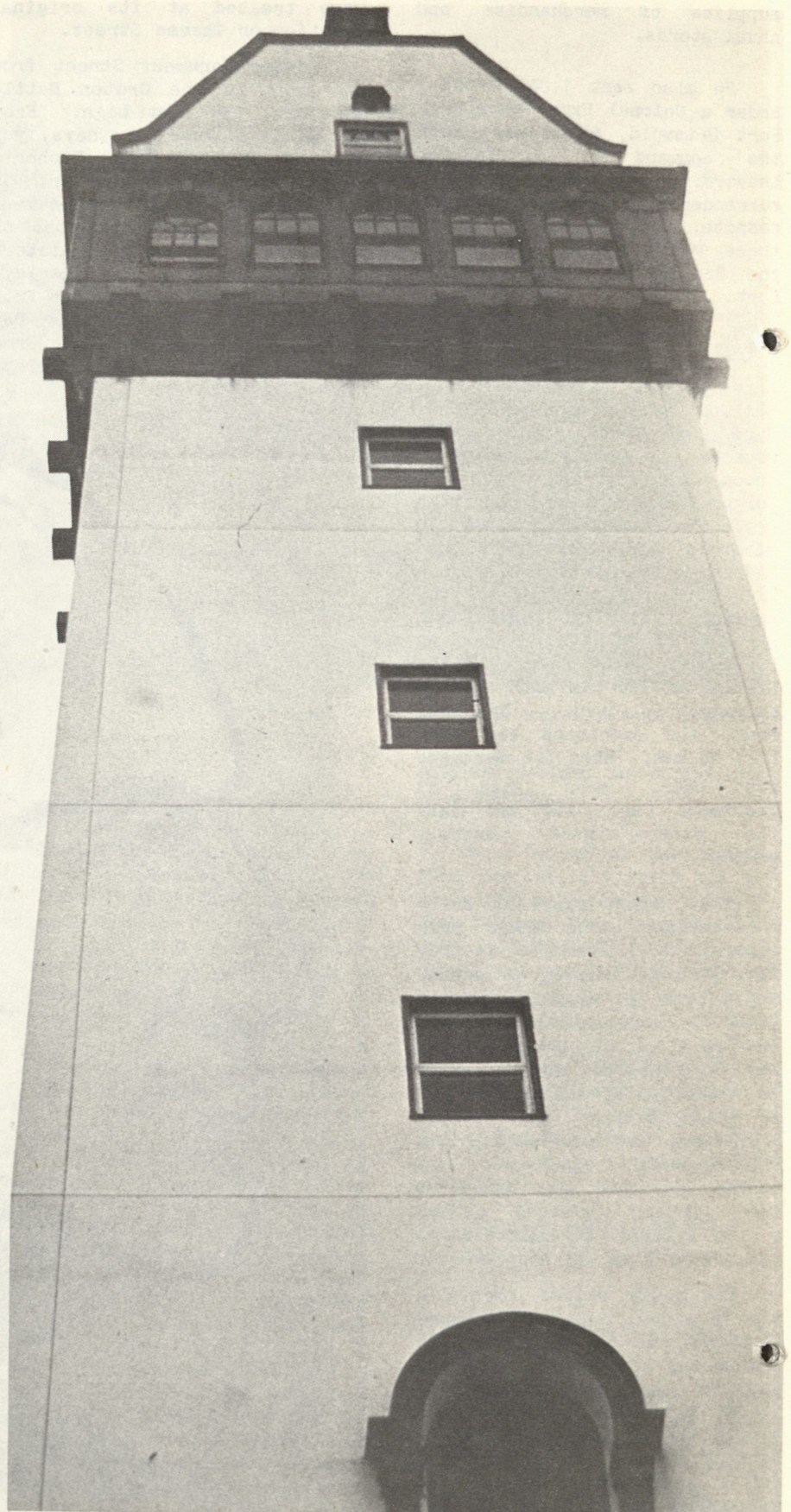
Talcott Mountain State Park's connection with the Revolutionary War occurred almost 100 years before the war itself -- and may have been America's first organized revolt against England.

Connecticut had been operating under a very liberal charter granted by King Charles II. But his successor, King James II, ordered the Royal Governor in Connecticut to demand that the charter be handed over to the Crown. In 1687, at a meeting in a Hartford tavern where surrender of the Charter was supposed to take place, all the lights suddenly went out. When they were relighted, the charter was nowhere to be found. In the dark, the Yankees had passed it out the window to a young man, Joe Wadsworth, who raced to the home of Samuel Wyllys, who hid it away in the now famous Charter Oak.

Wadsworth then fled to what is now Talcott Mountain, where he hid for days in a gorge called the Hell Hole. The Redcoats never found him. (One hundred and twenty-three years later, another Wadsworth built a 65-foot tower on his country estate on Talcott Mountain -- a forerunner of the present Heublein Tower.)

The charter that Wadsworth rescued may be seen in the State's Museum of Connecticut History, which is in the State Library, 231 Capitol Avenue, Hartford. It is open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on weekdays, and from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturday. It is closed Sundays and major holidays. No admission fee.

Talcott Mountain State Park and its towers are described at length in the November 1981 issue of "Citizens' Bulletin" (Vol. 9, No. 3). A major attraction of the park is its Heublein Tower, especially during the fall foliage spectacle. From its sixth floor



Office of Parks and Recreation

Heublein Tower, with its sixth floor observatory, draws tourists to Talcott Mountain State Park.

observatory, Mount Monadnock in New Hampshire (83 miles away) and the Connecticut Berkshires are visible on a clear day. The Metacomet Trail runs through the park. Foxes, rabbits, turkey vultures, bald eagles, pileated woodpeckers, and a wide assortment of plant life abound.

During 1983, the tower will be open on Saturdays and Sundays from April 16 through May 29. From May 30 through September 5, it will be open daily. From September 10 through October 9, it will be open on weekends; and from October 16 through October 30, on Sundays only. Admission is free. There are picnic tables, fireplaces, and toilets.

Take State Route 185 to Summit Drive near the Simsbury-Bloomfield line. (See Block G-3 on the State Tourist Map.) The Heublein Tower is reached by a mile and a quarter hike along a foot trail.

## Old Furnace Park

This 101-acre park in Killingly (Block N-4 on the State Tourist Map) is named Old Furnace because, during the Revolution, there was a foundry there that made horseshoes for

Washington's army. The only trace of it today is slag found just below the surface.

The park itself is a pleasant place to visit. There is a picnic grove near the entrance; and a brook. A trail starting at the west side of the brook climbs to a precipice about 100 feet above and continues southward to Squaw Rock and beyond.

The entrance is south from US 6, just before it crosses into Rhode Island. Route 52 touches the park's western edge.

## Nathan Hale Forest

This 1,296-acre forest is in Coventry and Andover. (See Block J-4 on the State Tourist Map.) In it is the homestead of the American patriot, Nathan Hale (1755-76). Hale, when he was about to be hanged by the British, expressed regret that he had only one life that he could give for his country. The homestead, which is on South Street in Coventry, now functions as an historical museum, which the Connecticut Antiquarian and Landmark Society opens to the public from mid-May to mid-October. There is an admission fee.

The 10-room house was built by Nathan's father, Deacon Richard Hale, in 1776. The father was also justice of the peace and used his home as a courtroom. Today, it is furnished to look the way it probably looked when the Hales lived there. Some of the family heirlooms are included.

The home-museum is open daily from 1 to 5 p.m. from May 15 through October 15. Admission is a dollar per adult and 25 cents per child. To get there, take US 44A to its intersection with Route 31. Turn south onto the paved connecting road to the forest.

## Trimountain Park

This 157-acre park in Durham and Wallingford (See Block G-7 on State Tourist Map) contains an old road named the George Washington Trail because General Washington actually used it during the Revolutionary War. Today, the park is notable for the hiking provided by the Matabessett Trail, which runs through it. A paved connecting road runs southwestward to the park from Route 68 near Durham Meadows.

## Mohawk Forest and Park

Mohawk State Forest and Mohawk Mountain State Park contain no Revolutionary War monuments or relics, although flintlock rifles for Washington's troops were manufactured near where the forest headquarters now stands. It is not unlikely that the location was dictated by the presence of a flint mine nearby, although no evidence of one remains. The forest and park consist of 3,505 acres in Goshen and Cornwall. (See Block D-3 on the State Tourist Map.)

Mohawk Mountain State Park's big attraction is an excellent ski area with lifts, tows, and snow-making machinery as well as cross-country



Hang gliding and spectacular views are among Talcott Mountain State Park's attractions.

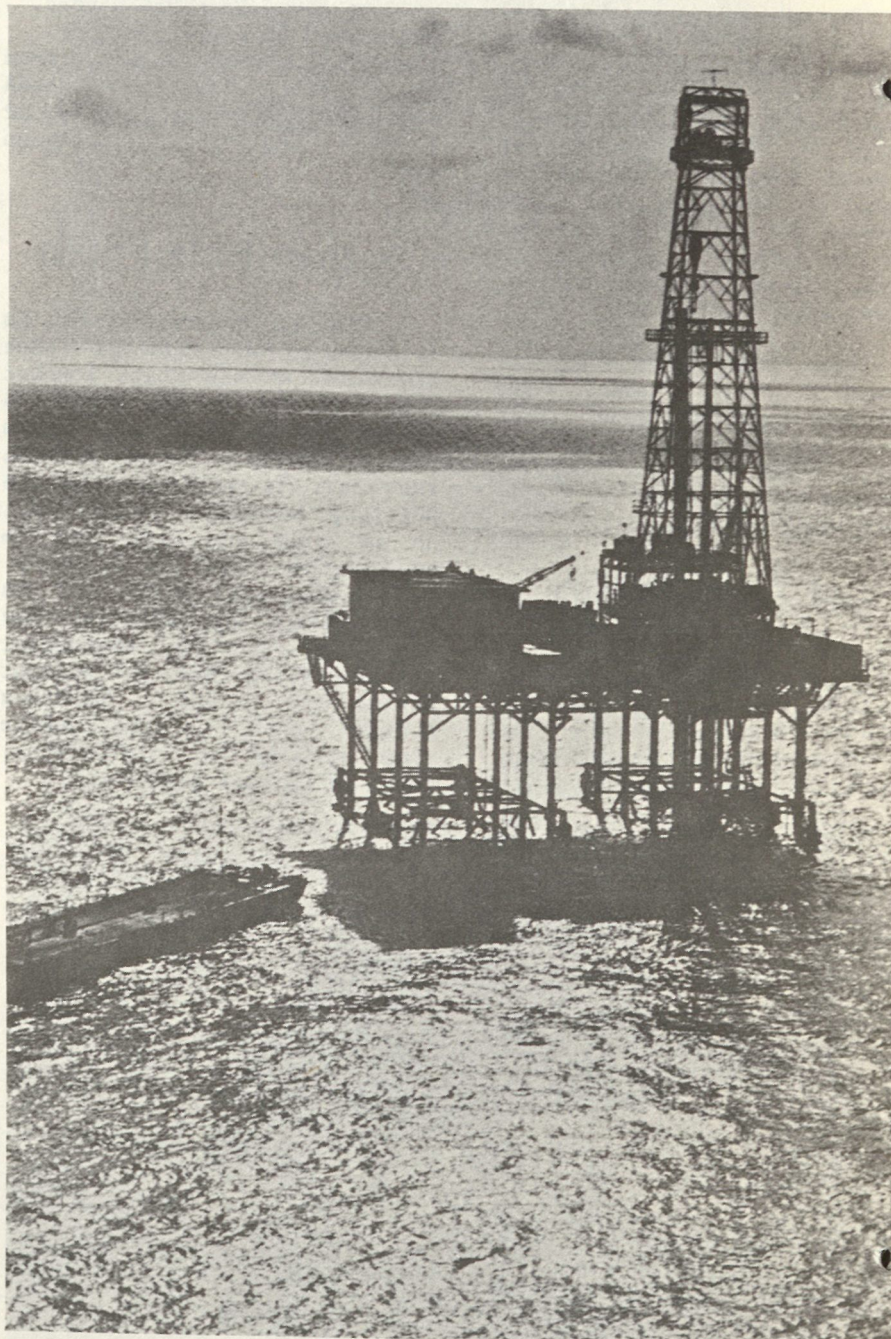
# CAM NEWS

## States urge Congress to "share the shelf"

The Coastal States Organization (CSO), representing every coastal state in the country, has initiated a national media campaign centered around the theme "Share the Shelf." The shelf is, in this case, the continental shelf, and the CSO is urging our representatives in the 98th Congress to pass an important piece of legislation that would give coastal states a share of the receipts generated by lease sales for outer continental shelf (OCS) oil drilling. The Reagan Administration has long opposed funding of federal ocean and coastal grant programs administered by states but has nonetheless embarked on a record-setting oil and gas development plan for the outer continental shelf that would have significant impacts on all coastal states.

The "receipt-sharing" legislation is intended to right the basic unfairness of the present methods of distributing federal mineral leasing monies among the states. For example, when federally owned land located within state boundaries is leased for purposes such as petroleum exploration, coal mining, or timber harvesting, the federal government shares the receipts from the lease sales with the states that are affected by these activities. Inland states get 50 per cent of the federal royalties received annually from mineral leases on federal lands located within their boundaries. This money, nearly \$1 billion in 1983, compensates the states for the loss of property tax

An offshore oil drilling rig.



revenues and for any adverse environmental, social, and economic effects the leasing project might have.

But when the Department of the Interior announced, in June

of 1980, an accelerated five-year program calling for almost a billion acres of federally owned offshore land to be leased for oil and gas exploration and development, it made no provisions to share any

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By Lois Kelley, Director,  
James L. Goodwin Conservation Center

# Snakes are amazing!

## Snakes of Connecticut

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Snakes have no arms or legs, but they can climb trees and swim. They have no ears and do not see well at distances, but they can feel the ground's vibrations as we walk by.

Snakes can't blink their eyes. They smell mostly inside their mouths and "catch" odors with their tongues to pull them inside for smelling. They don't chew with their teeth; snakes' teeth take the place of fingers (for holding food).

Snakes "walk" by moving their ribs, one pair of which is attached to each belly scale.

Some snakes have smooth skins; some have rough, ridged scales (called "keeled" scales). No snakes are slimy.

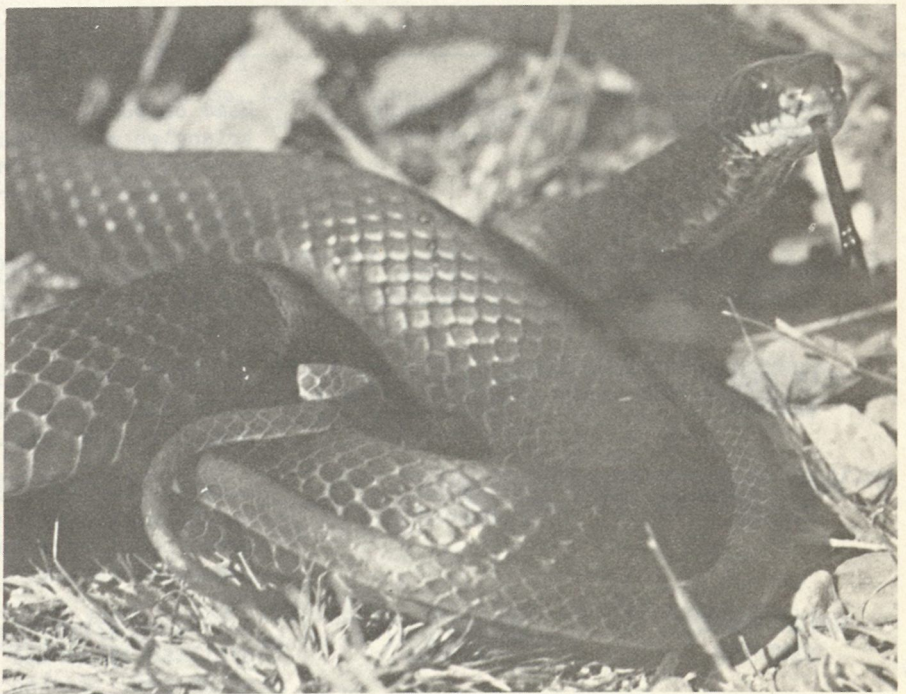
Two-hundred and fifty species of snakes are found in the United States. Only 14 of these are found in Connecticut.

About half the kinds of snakes in Connecticut lay eggs; the other half retain their eggs inside their bodies until it's time for the young to hatch.

Best reference: "A Field Guide to Reptiles & Amphibians," by Conant, the Peterson Field Guide Series, published by Houghton Mifflin.

The Connecticut Herpetological Society is made up of people especially interested in snakes. Contact is George Whitney DVM, Secretary, Oakwood Road, Orange, CT 06477.

Black racer: Irene Vandermolen



COMMON NAME	LATIN NAME	COLOR, MARKINGS, & TEXTURE	SIZE
<b>Plain</b>			
BLACK RACER, NORTHERN	Coluber constrictor	Satiny black with black or dark grey belly. Shiny. Smooth scales.	8" - 6'1"
BLACK RAT SNAKE	Elaphe obsoleta	Black, often interrupted with faint crossbars of white, yellow or red. Scales shiny, slightly keeled.	14" - 8'5"
BROWN SNAKE, NORTHERN	Storeria dekayi	Brown or grey with double row of faint black spots bordering faint central light stripe. Keeled scales.	4" - 18 1/4"
GREEN SNAKE, EASTERN SMOOTH	Opheodrys vernalis	Bright green. Turns bright blue when dead. Smooth scales.	4" - 26"
RED-BELLIED SNAKE, NORTHERN	Storeria occipi- tomaculata	Body dark; three yellow-grey blotches at neck. Belly bright red. Keeled scales.	3" - 16 3/4"
RINGNECK SNAKE, NORTHERN	Diadophis punctatus	Body slate-grey; yellow ring around neck. Belly yellow-orange. Smooth scales.	5" - 22 1/2"
WORM SNAKE, EASTERN	Carphophis amoenus	Brown back, pink belly. Looks much like earthworm. Spine on tip of tail. Very smooth, waxy.	3 1/2" - 13"
<b>Striped</b>			
GARTER SNAKE, EASTERN	Thamnophis sirtalis	Three yellowish long stripes on dark background. Keeled scales.	5" - 4'
RIBBON SNAKE, EASTERN	Thamnophis sauritus	Dark, brightly patterned. Three bright yellow stripes. Very slender compared to garter snake. Keeled scales.	8" - 38"
<b>Patterned</b>			
COPPERHEAD, NORTHERN	Agkistrodon contortrix	Head coppery, body tan w/red-brown triangles along each side, base toward ground, tops joining to form extended hour-glass shape around body. Underside light, no pattern. Rough scaled.	8" - 4'5"
HOGNOSE SNAKE, EASTERN	Heterodon platyrhinos	Upturned snout. Color extremely varied, tan to dark; conspicuously spotted. Keeled scales.	7" - 3'7"
MILK SNAKE, EASTERN	Lampropeltis triangulum	Tan-grey body, red-brown oval blotches. Underside black-and-white checkers. Smooth scales, polished look.	6" - 47 1/4"
RATTLESNAKE, TIMBER	Crotalus horridus	Body may be light tan to dark brown or black, marked w/irregular crossbands of black outlined w/yellow. Dark tail. Segmented rattle. Keeled scales.	11" - 5'
WATER SNAKE, NORTHERN	Natrix sipedon	Body dark w/red-brown crossbands. Belly brilliantly marked w/dark half-moons, often red. Keeled scales.	9" - 4'4 1/2"

HABITAT	CONSTRUCTOR? POISONOUS?	FOOD	HABITS, NOTES; NUMBER OF EGGS OR LIVE OFFSPRING
Prefers open land--fields, clearings.	Not constrictor, despite Latin name. Not poisonous	Mice, rats, frogs, birds, eggs, other snakes.	Black racer may be distinguished from black rat snake by satiny skin, dark unmarked belly smooth scales. 6 - 8 eggs.
Widely distributed.	Constrictor, not poisonous.	Largely rodents. Also birds' eggs, birds.	1 - 24 eggs
Gardens, open fields.	Not constrictor, not poisonous.	Slugs, snails, earthworms.	Like garter snake, but has only one light stripe. 9 - 20 live offspring.
Open grassy places.	Not constrictor, not poisonous.	Crickets, grasshoppers, other insects.	Very gentle, shy snakes. Because they inhabit fields & lawns, often caught by mowers; becoming rarer. 3 - 11 eggs.
Burrows in uplands.	Not constrictor, not poisonous.	Slugs, earthworms, insect larvae.	1 - 7 tiny live offspring.
Moist woods, under rocks & logs.	Not constrictor, not poisonous.	Earthworms, small frogs, salamanders, insects.	Secretive. 1 - 7 eggs.
Under damp boards, stones; usually in soil.	Not constrictor, not poisonous.	Earthworms, grubs	Not numerous. 2 - 5 eggs.
Widely distributed.	Not constrictor, not poisonous.	Frogs, toads, earthworms, fish.	Probably the most common snake in Connecticut. 14 - 40 live offspring.
Marshy meadows & swamps.	Not constrictor, not poisonous.	Frogs, small fish, earthworms.	Longer, more slender than garter snake. Lives in wetlands, meadows. 5 - 20 live offspring.
Ledges & rock slides.	Not constrictor, POISONOUS.	Mice, frogs, birds.	Largely nocturnal. Very mild-mannered. Well camouflaged in leaves. 4 - 9 live offspring.
Widely distributed.	Not constrictor, not poisonous.	Toads, frogs.	A bluffing snake: hisses, puffs out neck, plays dead; seldom bites. 4 - 6 eggs.
Widely distributed.	Not constrictor, not poisonous.	Mice, other snakes.	Secretive. Often mistaken for copperhead; black/white checkered belly distinguishes. 4 - 6 eggs.
Steep ledges & rock slides w/ southern exposures.	Not constrictor, POISONOUS.	Rodents, birds.	Very shy, having to be cornered before striking -- often not even then. 7 - 9 offspring.
Streams, rivers, lakes ponds.	Not constrictor, not poisonous.	Frogs, fish, other aquatic life.	Unfriendly. Will eat dead or dying fish. Up to 44 live offspring.

By Leslie Bieber, Citizen Participation Coordinator

# Project O

## School districts "went to sea" to make education more dynamic

If it's hard to imagine junior and senior high school students getting excited about science class, take a trip down to the University of Connecticut's Avery Point campus. Tucked away in an unimposing white building is Project Oceanology, an innovative and widely acclaimed program designed to provide both students and teachers with firsthand knowledge of the marine environment.

Project "O", as it is fondly known, is the creation of a group of farsighted teachers and administrators who, in the 1960s, decided that marine studies should be a part of the curriculum in Groton-area schools. In 1972 a \$59,000 grant was received under Title III of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, and the vision became a reality. Today Project Oceanology is supported by its member school districts, although corporate and private contributions go toward special programs. There are 22 participating school districts,

including the University of Connecticut and the Montville Correctional Institute. Schools pay into the program based on their numbers of students.

The commitment of the southeastern Connecticut community to Project O is embodied in the "Enviro-lab," the sea-going classroom. The 50-foot launch, which once accompanied the aircraft carrier Wasp, was donated to the project by the federal government. Naval reserve personnel rebuilt the boat's engine, while local high-school students volunteered their time and elbow grease to scrape and paint the hull. Even area businesses became involved, providing foul-weather gear and electronic equipment.

At about the same time, Project O's laboratory was established at the Avery Point Campus of the University of Connecticut. The building and adjoining dock provide students and staff with easy access to Long Island Sound, the Thames

River, and the Bluff Point Coastal Preserve. The same community spirit which helped refurbish the "Enviro-lab" was evident in the fitting of the lab and pier.

Today much of Project O's success is due to the dedication of Dr. Howard M. Weiss, Project Director. Weiss explained that participating students are exposed to more than the scientific aspects of the marine environment. The historic, economic, and sociological impacts of Long Island Sound are also stressed. "We're not trying to turn them all into oceanographers," Weiss said, "just educate them about their marine resources. They will be the decision-makers of tomorrow."

Weiss is aided by an able and enthusiastic professional staff. Walter Barnard, a licensed Coast Guard captain, pilots the Enviro-lab on its cruises. Diane Glemboski, Donna Towne, and Brae Rafferty work with the students in the lab and out on the water. All

three have degrees in Marine Ecology or Marine Education.

The school program is designed so that users can take full advantage of Project O's on-the-water capabilities. Trips, which run about two and one-half hours, can be any of several pre-designed by the program's staff or can be developed by the individual classes. The sea-going work can also be combined with a half-day of laboratory study at the shore facility.

In order to make each boat trip effective, a maximum of 45 students and instructors utilize the craft on one run. Students are broken up into small groups headed by an instructor and are given various assignments. In one section of the Enviro-lab groups work on sampling bottom sediments, water clarity, salinity, temperature, dissolved oxygen, and other indicators of water quality. Meanwhile, other groups are pulling in a plankton net and an otter trawl (large fishing net) which yield examples of marine flora and fauna.

Examining the animals is always the high point of an Enviro-lab outing. Students gather around a large trough of circulating seawater. The contents of the trawl are poured into the trough and separated for inspection. Typical catches include flounder, fluke, sea-robins, squid, crabs, and other assorted creatures. Lobsters are taken in traps maintained by Project O. As Dr. Weiss says, "This is where the animals do the teaching." Specimens are measured, touched, and investigated by the students, some of whom have obvious reservations at first about handling a squirming fish. Soon all are involved literally up to their elbows. Most specimens are returned to the water, but a couple will be dissected to study their anatomy. The occasional rare or unusual find will be taken back to the lab and kept in a large aquarium.

While many of Project O's activities are carried out during the school day and during the school year, several programs occur after school and in the summer months. In these

courses, students undertake actual research projects related to the marine environment. Over the past few years studies have been made of gull colonies, coastal processes, and the effect of Millstone power plant on marine ecology.

Last May the after-school program group helped the DEP plant dune grass at the Bluff Point Coastal Preserve. These plantings stabilize the dunes and protect the beach from erosion. The students who took part in the three three-week summer sessions did in-depth research into the spawning of various kinds of shellfish found in the Sound.

The most comprehensive research is carried out by students in the Summer Research Program. The project is kicked off in the spring when students attend a scientific conference where papers are given and much technical information is exchanged. They then develop goals and objectives for their research, the methodology they plan to use, and how their findings will be recorded.



Teacher John Scillieri, Jr., and two students in the 1982 Summer Research Program examine a day's catch on one of Project Oceanology's small research boats.

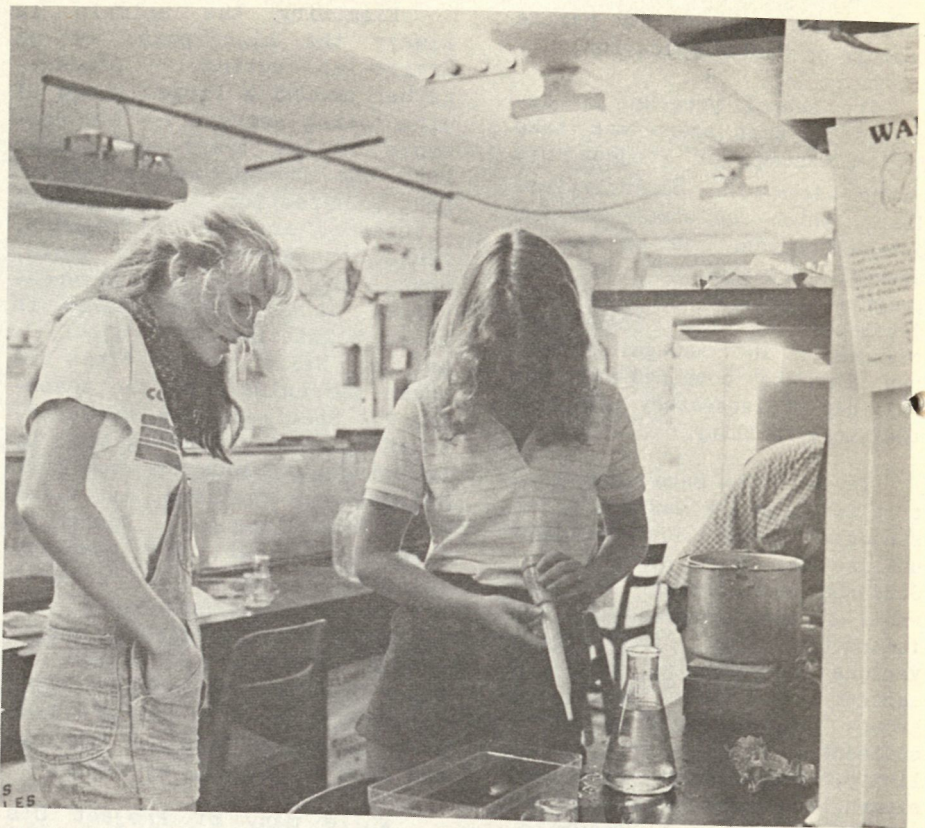
Once school ends, the students spend every week day at the Avery Point lab or at a research site. Finally in the fall, after the project has been completed and the data analyzed, the participants prepare and deliver a paper at another scientific conference.

The 1982 Summer Research Program involved a comprehensive study of eelgrass beds in the estuaries and coves near the Project O lab. The students "planted" artificial grass made of plastic to determine how algal growth would differ from that on natural material. Some beds were shaded to measure the effect of light changes. For work of this type, several small motorboats were used to transport researchers and equipment from the lab to the study site and back again.

Besides the regular Project O staff, teachers from local schools become involved with the Summer Research Program. Last year Dave Scott and John Scillieri, Jr., served as team teachers. Scillieri, who was named the outstanding junior high school teacher in the country by the National Science Teachers' Association, thinks that the program is as exciting to the teachers as to the students. "We do new and original research in the summer projects," he said. "It's also great to see the interaction between the kids, who range from seventh to 12th graders."

Dr. Weiss feels that all of the Project O programs are helping schools deal with the critical areas of producing potential scientists and mathematicians. Students develop skills in research, analysis, evaluation of statistics, and presentation of scientific data; and, because the subject matter is so stimulating, many who would have avoided science or math in traditional courses instead become interested.

Teachers as well as pupils benefit from Project O's existence. Courses in marine studies and marine environ-



*Students work on shellfish spawning project in Project Oceanology's laboratory at the University of Connecticut's Avery Point Campus.*

mental education are offered in conjunction with Eastern Connecticut State University. Dr. Weiss and Michael Dorsey have produced a three-volume sourcebook called Investigating the Marine Environment, which includes sections on field studies and procedures, laboratory experiments, classroom activities, and a teacher's manual. The sourcebook so inspired marine educators in Alaska that they invited Weiss to help them set up a program similar to Project O in that state.

In an effort to open Project Oceanology's unique approach to marine studies up to a wider audience, the staff began running a summer cruise program for the general public. Structured much like the two and one-half hour classroom trips, the cruises allow families the opportunity to study the Sound together. Children especially love seeing the marine creatures, but they are also fascinated by many of the water quality experiments. Visitors from as far away as Germany, Saudi Arabia, and

India have toured the Sound aboard the Enviro-lab.

The schedule for the summer cruise program will be June 18 to September 5. Cruises run on the following schedule: Sunday, Monday, and Wednesday, 10:00 - 12:30 and 1:00 - 3:30. Saturday, 9:00 - 11:30, 12:00 - 2:30, and 3:00 - 5:30. Tickets are \$8 for adults and \$6 for children under 12.

Trips depart from the Submarine Memorial on Thames Street in Groton. You can make reservations, which are advisable, by calling 448-1616.

Teacher Dave Scott has best summed up Project Oceanology's role, saying that it:

...has exerted a dynamic influence on education in southeastern Connecticut and has become a national model for marine science studies. Its impact is most obvious, however, in the enthusiasm displayed by the students who 'follow the sea' each year, and return eager to see their field studies produce meaningful results. ■



By Leslie Bieber,  
Citizens' Participation Coordinator

## For Your Information

### If you spot a spill...

Now that summer is here and outdoor activity has increased, many people are once again aware of their environment and possible sources of environmental damage. One of the more common causes of short-term localized pollution is the oil or chemical spill.

How do you know if one of these substances has been discharged (accidentally or not)? An oil spill is obvious; the iridescent slick on a water body or dark stain on the land is fairly conclusive. Chemicals may show up as unusual colors or blobs or may give off distinctive odors. Occasionally a fish kill will occur because of a toxic substance in a water body, but the cause may also be a lack of dissolved oxygen or a large algal bloom.

What should you do if you come across a spill? The first thing is report it at once (you may remain anonymous if you wish). The number for the DEP's Oil and Chemical Spills Section is 566-4633. If the spill happens before or after normal working hours (8:30-4:30), you can call State Police headquarters at 566-3338 or 4240. Local fire and safety officials should also be notified as soon as possible. As far as trying to contain a spill yourself, the best advice

is, leave it for the experts. You should not attempt to take samples, as many chemicals are toxic or present fire hazards. If you spot a spill from a boat, be extremely cautious as heat from your motor could ignite vapors.

Many municipalities now have the ability to contain spills. The DEP has worked to train local fire and safety officials, as well as having cooperative arrangements for equipment use. Some towns have developed their capabilities even more. Bristol converted an old city-owned vehicle into a spills clean-up truck.

The most commonly discharged substances are fuel oil and gasoline. Extreme care should be taken in dealing with a gas spill, as its potential for destruction is very great. Too often we forget how explosive gasoline can be, even in small quantities or in the form of fumes.

One of the most publicized effects of oil spills is the coating of animal life, especially birds. This kind of accident is highly unusual in Connecticut, but arrangements have been made to deal with such a situation. Affected wildlife would be captured by local volunteers in conjunction with DEP Conservation Officers. The animals will be taken to one of the Audubon Centers across the State, where they will be cleaned and released.

If you have further questions about oil and chemical spills, their causes, and their effects on the environment, contact the Oil and Chemical Spills Section, Department of Environmental Protection, 165 Capitol Ave., Hartford 06106; (203) 566-4633. ■

### Reservoirs are open to public

Four Bridgeport Hydraulic Company public water supply reservoirs (Saugatuck in Weston and Redding, West Pequonnock in Monroe, and Shelton No. 2 and Far Mill in Shelton) are open to anglers on a company-issued permit basis through October 31. Fishing will be permitted from 6 a.m. to 9 p.m. daily. Season permits are \$10; daily permits, \$1. Permits are free to senior citizens 65 years of age or older. Persons under 16 may fish without a permit.

Bridgeport Hydraulic also offers an annual permit, for a \$3 fee, for hiking on the company's 5.5 mile Saugatuck Nature Trail in Redding and Weston. (Senior citizens get hiking permits free; persons under 16 can use the trail without a permit if accompanied by a permit-holding adult.)

Both fishing and hiking permits may be obtained at any BHC business office and at the town halls in Monroe, Newtown, Redding, Trumbull, and Wilton. ■

# Indian

From page 2

State-recognized tribes, the Schaghticoke, Golden Hill Paugussett, Mohegan, Mashantucket (Western) Pequot, and the Paucatuck (Eastern) Pequot. Tribal representatives are elected by the tribal council of each tribe. Three persons appointed by the Governor also serve. The CIAC is the only such statewide council in existence, as most states have an appointed commission form of regional Indian government. As an agency, the CIAC has the authority to form regulations and to assist in matters concerning Indian affairs.

The CIAC continued the discussions with the Children's Museum and the Indian Affairs Coordinator of the Department of Environmental Protection. It was determined by the museum staff that the remains of the Indian boy would no longer be displayed out of respect for the sensitivities of the Indian people. For several months the remains have been removed from public view.

According to Dr. Robert A. Matthai, Director of the Children's Museum, "This was not a simple matter to resolve. On one hand, museums and researchers have a legitimate need to study ancient cultures in order to understand how human beings related to their environment and to each other in earlier times.

"On the other hand, in recent years the living descendants of these early peoples have made clear their feeling that it is disrespectful and sacrilegious to treat human remains as artifacts and to display them as museum exhibits. In the case of the Children's Museum, we believe that any available scientific information has been obtained from the skeleton and that, out of respect for the sensitivities of living Indians and other concerned individuals, it is appropriate to remove the remains from public view and reinter them."

Meanwhile, the CIAC sought an appropriate reburial site where the remains of the boy would be protected from further disturbance. As the General Assembly had passed an Act in 1981 protecting Indian burial grounds on State-owned lands, the Council turned to the DEP. Department employees located an old Indian burial ground in Farmington. Commissioner Stanley J. Pac granted permission to the Council to use unused portions of it for the reinterment of the ancient remains of Indian people indigenous to Connecticut. The site is administered and protected by the Department and no modern burials will be allowed.

Slow Turtle (John Peters), Supreme Medicine Man of the Wampanoag Indian Nation and Executive Director of the Massachusetts Commission on Indian Affairs, conducted the traditional sacred ceremony. He was assisted by several medicine men and other Indian people, including chiefs from a number of area tribes.

The Connecticut Indian Affairs Council expressed its particular thanks to DEP Park and Recreation Manager Daniel Dickinson and maintainer Paul Szymanski for their help in preparing the burial site and delivering the remains for the ceremony.

## Indian activities to plan to attend

### INDIAN POW-WOWS AND FESTIVALS

The public is invited to attend and in many cases can actually participate in most of the pow-wows and festivals listed. At most such events there are opportunities to meet

people from many Indian nations, observe traditional dances, purchase beautiful hand-crafted items and objects of art, try some Indian cookery, and listen to the heart-throb of the drum.

Bring your camera and the children by all means. Please, however, respect the Sacred Pipe Ceremony. Do not take photographs or use sound recording devices during the ceremony. Please respect the individuals as well by asking permission before using your camera or recorder. As such events take considerable planning and may be postponed because of rain, it is advisable to call or write the appropriate contact person prior to each event.

### JUNE

#### 1st weekend

#### SCHAGHTICOKE TRIBAL

POW-WOW: Held in June on the Schaghticoke Reservation in Kent, Connecticut, this has been a one day event. Contact: Ms. Trudie Lamb, Pow-Wow Chairperson, P.O. Box 553, Kent, Connecticut 06757. Telephone: 927-4193.

#### PLANTING FESTIVAL at Nipmuc

Reservation in Thompson, Connecticut. Contact: Nipmuc Indian Council of Chaubunna-gungamaug, 19 Park Street, Webster, Massachusetts. Telephone: 617-943-4569.

#### 2nd weekend:

#### WOLLOMONOPPOAG INDIAN

POW-WOW in Plainville, Massachusetts is held behind the Plainville Town Hall on South Street (Route 1-A). Contact: Running Deer, 1152 Oakhill Avenue, Plainville, Massachusetts 02702. Telephone: 617-222-4345.

#### 3rd weekend

#### STERLING POW-WOW benefit

for the Worcester Indian Arts and Cultural Lodge in Sterling, Massachusetts. Held at the Sterling Springs Campgrounds (17 miles north of Worcester on Route 12; follow signs from

Pratt's Junction to Ford Road). Contact: Running Deer at above address.

4th weekend

THE ORDER OF THE PRESERVATION OF INDIAN CULTURE POW-WOW held at Houghton's Pond (Ponka-paugh Trail, Blue Hills), 1010 Hillside Street in Milton, Massachusetts (on the Dedham line). Contact: One Bear Tremblay, 502 Broad Street, Plymouth, Massachusetts 02188

JULY

1st weekend

MASHPEE POW-WOW is held the entire Fourth of July weekend at Mashpee, Massachusetts. Contact: Mashpee Tribal Council at 617-477-0208.

3rd weekend

OAKLAWN POW WOV at Redgate Farm in Cranston, Rhode Island.

GREENBEAN THANKSGIVING (Sunday) at Tomaquag Memorial Museum, Arcadia Village, Summit Road, Exeter, Rhode Island 02822. Contact: Tomaquag Museum telephone: 401-539-7213.

AUGUST

2nd weekend

NARRAGANSETT TRIBAL POW WOV at the Old Indian Church grounds in Charlestown, Rhode Island (Rt. 2). Contact: Narragansett Longhouse: telephone: 401-364-6411.

3rd weekend

NIPMUC FAIR at the Hassanamisco Indian Reservation in Grafton, Mass. Contact: Zara Ciscoe-Brough, Hassanamisco Reservation, Grafton, Massachusetts. Telephone: 617-839-5182.

AMERICAN INDIAN FEDERATION POW-WOV at Lafayette, Rhode Island. Contact: Andy and Paul Bullock at 247 South Main Street, Attleboro, Massachusetts 02703; telephone: 617-226-2904. Or Chief Spotted Eagle at 25 Lillian Avenue, Providence,

Rhode Island 02905; telephone 401-941-6642.

SUMMER DANCE held by the American Indianist Society in Sterling, Massachusetts. Contact: Andy or Paul Bullock, 247 South Main Street, Attleboro, Massachusetts 02703. Telephone: 617-226-2904.

4th weekend

MOHAWK TRAIL POW WOV at Charlemont, Massachusetts. Contact: Necia Hopkins, P.O. Box 551, Avon, Massachusetts. Telephone: 617-943-4779.

PLANTING CORN at Nipmuc Reservation in Thompson, Connecticut. Contact: Nipmuc Indian Council of Chaubunna-gungamaug, 19 Park Street, Webster, Massachusetts. Telephone: 617-943-4569.

SEPTEMBER

1st weekend

THE MOUNTAIN EAGLE FESTIVAL is held the entire Labor Day weekend at Hunter Mountain, New York. The area has a huge tent, and the festival is held rain or shine with camping and lodging nearby. Contact: Mag la Que, Star Route, Ashland, New York. Telephone: 518-734-4316.

SHINNECOCK INDIAN POW WOV is held the entire Labor Day weekend at the Shinnecock Indian Reservation in Southampton, New York. Contact: Shinnecock Tribal Office.

MUSEUMS

Tantaquideon Indian Museum  
1819 Norwich-New London  
Turnpike (Route 32)  
Uncasville, Connecticut 06382  
Telephone: 848-9145

American Indian Archaeological  
Institute and Museum  
Post Office Box 260  
Curtis Road  
Washington, Connecticut 06782  
Telephone: 868-0518

Somers Mountain Indian Museum  
Turnpike Road

Somers, Connecticut 06071  
Telephone: 749-4129

The above museums have only Indian displays and are open to the public during regular hours. ■

## Revolution

From page 11

trails. Operated as a concession by an eminent skier, it provides all the conveniences of the finest ski resorts of New England.

Apart from skiing, the forest and park have many attractions. An auto road through handsome woods climbs to several points that offer exciting views. Some picnic areas are also located to take advantage of the vistas. By paved road or by hiking trail you can reach the top of the mountain for a panoramic view that takes in the Catskills on a clear day.

Mohawk Pond is popular with fishermen. For hikers, there are three stretches of the Appalachian Trail; namely the Coltsfoot Mountain, Cathedral Pines, and Mohawk Mountain sections. The Mattatuck Trail's Mohawk Mountain section and local trails also invite hikers.

Take Route 4 toward Cornwall. The forest entrance is on Route 4, about two miles west of West Goshen. There is parking for 500 cars. For rates on skiing, call 203-672-6100 or write to: Mohawk Ski Area, Cornwall, CT 06753. ■

## Shelf revenues

From page 12

of the projected revenues with coastal states. The OCS leasing program generates billions of dollars each year for the U.S. Treasury, an amount 10 to 14 times greater than receipts from comparable inland activities. And while OCS activities may not be located within state boundaries, the consequences of

the development are clearly felt there. Access to and from the outer continental shelf must be made via a state's coastal waters and adjacent land, and the very nature of oil and gas exploration raises the possibility of oil spills and lowered water quality. Furthermore, any effects of boom-growth development resulting from a major oil or gas discovery will be felt within a state's coastal zone.

Last October, the U.S. House of Representatives passed legislation that if enacted into law would have given coastal states a share of the receipts from offshore drilling. The bill was designated H.R. 5543, and the House passed it by an encouragingly supportive vote of 260 to 134. However, the Senate was unable to come up with a comparable version of the legislation before the end of the session, and so the entire process had to begin all over again in the 98th Congress.

Both houses of Congress have recently held hearings on the receipt-sharing bills (H.R. 5 in the House and S. 800 in the Senate) that were reintroduced during this session, and observers of the Washington scene anticipate that a compromise measure will be formulated and passed shortly. The legislation has been endorsed again this year by all the regional Governors' organizations including the New England Governors' Conference and the National Governors' Association as well as by many local governments and a variety of environmental and academic organizations. In addition, H.R. 5 has over 100 co-sponsors.

In the House's version of the legislation, a fund would be established from 10 percent of the growth in annual outer continental shelf revenues. Monies from this fund, not to exceed \$300 million a year, would be allocated to states for coastal management, fisheries enhancement, energy impact assistance, and renewable resource projects with a por-

tion of the funds designated for a "pass-through" to coastal municipalities. The national Sea Grant education and research program would also receive funding. The Senate version, similar in purpose and eligible uses, would establish a \$400 million fund based on five percent of annual OCS revenues. Both are subject to Congressional appropriation annually.

The federal government's offshore drilling activities affect the environments of nearby coastal states, and while these states are willing to form a strong partnership with the federal government to manage and protect nationally important coastal resources, they must be assisted financially if they are to do an effective job. This is especially important now as coastal states face a collective net budget deficit estimated to approach \$6 billion for 1983. ■

# To help you have some, some summer fun ...

## Vacation Guide

More than 200 attractions in Connecticut, some that are open all year long, others that have reopened with the return of balmy weather, are listed in the State's Vacation Guide. Find out about parks, nature centers, museums, historic sites, beaches, flea markets, historic homes, and more.

Seven suggested driving tours, covering Connecticut attractions as diverse as the Bradley Air Museum in Windsor Locks and the Prudence Crandall House in Canterbury, are among the features of the new 1983/84 Vacation Guide which is available free. Attractions are listed by area and by subject, for travelers who know where they will be heading or for those who have special interests.

The 52-page guide also gives a comprehensive listing of hotels, motels, country inns, hostels and bed-and-breakfast accommodations. Separate sections list campgrounds, golf courses, swimming facilities, theaters and concert halls, boat rides and charter fishing boats. Two pages are devoted to a round-up of winter activities, from skiing to sleigh rides.

Those requesting the guide will also receive a free tourist map of the State and a month-by-month listing of special events taking place in 1983. For your free copy, write Vacations, Connecticut Department of Economic Development, 210 Washington Street, Hartford, CT 06106, or call toll-free 1-800-842-7492.

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A sampling of some of the Vacation Guide attractions that have reopened for the summer includes:

GURLEYVILLE MILL, Stone Mill Road in Storrs: it offers a look into one of the few stone grist mills still standing in New England. Two and one-half miles east of the University of Connecticut campus, it's a good setting for a springtime hike or picnic. It's open Thursday and Sunday, June through mid-September; Sundays in October. Call 429-2637 or 456-2221 for information.

ANTIQUARIAN & LANDMARKS  
SOCIETY HISTORIC HOMES:

New London: The Joshua Hempsted House (1678) and the Nathaniel

Hempsted House (1759) stand on the same property on Hempsted and Jay Street.

**Wethersfield:** The Buttolph-Williams House (1692) on Marsh Street is said to have the most completely furnished 17th century kitchen in New England.

**Suffield:** Hatheway House (1760 and 1795) on Route 75 is a New England landmark, with restored and furnished rooms of rare 18th century distinction.

**Coventry:** The Nathan Hale Homestead (1776) on South Street is the family home that Nathan never saw. Many family possessions and authentic furnishings are on display.

**Hartford:** Butler-McCook Homestead (1782) on Main Street and the Isham-Terry House (1854) on High Street unfold family histories of local residents.

**Moodus:** Amasa Day House (1816) at the junction of Routes 149 and 151 includes examples of early stenciling and is furnished with mementos of three generations.

For information on hours and times as well as admission prices, phone the Antiquarian and Landmarks Society at 247-8996. ■

## Vacation packages

Sixty pre-packaged vacations, from weekend canoe trips to luxury hotel stays featuring champagne and roses, are listed in a new publication from the State Department of Economic Development. "Connecticut Package Tours for Summer and Fall 1983" is a directory of ready-planned vacations close to home.

Variety is its hallmark. There's a Jai-Alai weekend at the Stamford-Marriott, a Windjammer cruise aboard the brand new schooner "Mystic Clipper" out of Mystic, a Blackberry River Inn Getaway in Norfolk, and a selection of packages in Hartford and New Haven. Copies

of the Package Tour listing are free on request. Call, toll-free in Connecticut, 1-800-842-7492, or write to Vacations, Department of Economic Development, 210 Washington Street, Hartford, CT 06106. ■

## Canoe the Connecticut

It's possible to see Connecticut as the Indians and the earliest settlers saw it -- from the water. Take a canoe camping trip down the Connecticut River or the Housatonic. The Department of Economic Development's "Summer/Fall 1983 Package Tours" listing offers several choices in guided and equipped canoe tours.

North American Canoe Tours of Niantic and Main Stream Outfitters in Canton offer popular overnight trips that include paddling downstream -- no problem even for beginners -- and camping under the stars and a look at Connecticut River landmarks such as the historic Goodspeed Opera House and Gillette Castle from completely new vantage points.

Both operators offer a variety of trips and other options such as canoe and equipment rentals and tailor-made excursions for groups. Contact North American Canoe Tours at 739-0791; contact Main Stream Outfitters at 693-6353.

If you'd rather try canoeing on the Housatonic, River-running Expeditions offers a "break away weekend." Contact them at 824-5579 in Falls Village. ■



## Fairs

The Department of Agriculture publishes a "Connecticut Pamphlet of Fairs." Fair season runs mid-July through early October. Request the 1983 pamphlet from: Connecticut Department of Agriculture, Marketing Division, Room G-3, State Office Bldg., Hartford, CT 06106. Please include self-addressed stamped envelope. ■

## VIPs camp free

The Volunteers in Parks (VIP) Program will be continued during the 1983 camping season. "This program," says William Miller, Director of the Office of State Parks and Recreation, "is for camping enthusiasts who like people and who have special skills they would like to share with others. Such individuals can assist regular park staff in meeting the needs of the camping public."

Welcoming newcomers to a campground, answering general questions about things to see and do, and performing light maintenance duties are among the responsibilities assigned to the VIPs. In return the volunteer receives a free campsite as well as a Certificate of Appreciation upon successful completion of service. Volunteers are sought for minimum stays of four weeks, with longer periods of service possible.

Interested persons should contact the Office of State Parks and Recreation, 165 Capitol Avenue, Hartford, CT 06106; (203) 566-2304.

Volunteers for other than camping-related programs are also needed at some other parks, such as Dinosaur State Park in Rocky Hill (529-8423) and the Kellogg Environmental Center at Osbornedale State Park in Derby (735-4311). Guides, tour group leaders, trail maintainers, and gardeners are all needed. ■

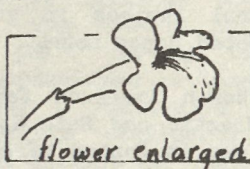
A small, easily overlooked plant that belongs to the prolific mint family, can be found on many lawns. Gill-over-the-ground, or creeping Charlie as it is sometimes called, has typical mint characteristics. Mints, which belong to the family Labiatae, can be recognized by their opposite leaf arrangement, square stems, and, for the most part, irregular flowers. Also, mints are quite often aromatic. Irregular flowers are asymmetrical, the lower lip of the flowers differing from the upper one.

Gill-over-the-ground, often called ground ivy, is a native of Europe. It is often found in moist woods, thickets, yards, waste places, and along roadsides. The gray-green color of the leaves of this small plant is the reason for its generic name, the Greek word for gray-green. Hederacea, the species name, means "resembling ivy" which

## Trailside Botanizing

by G. Winston Carter

### Gill-over-the-ground (*Glechoma hederacea*)



relates to the leaf shape and the plant's growth habit.

The flowers grow out from the axil of the leaves in small clusters. They are lavender to purple in color and about one-half inch long. They form between late March and July. The leaves are round or heart-shaped with scalloped margins.

This plant was well known as a medicinal herb to the ancient Greeks. Today it has no official standing as a medicinal plant. It is looked upon as a weed when it invades well kept lawns.

Its continued use as a tea is based on its high vitamin C content. To prepare this tea, pour boiling water over a quarter cup of chopped fresh leaves and let simmer. The tea is said to be useful in reducing a cough, building up a sweat, and stimulating the appetite.

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